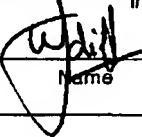


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NameSept 15/04  
Date**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventors: M.K. Carpenter et al.

Art Unit: 1632

Filing Date: March 1, 2002

Examiner: Tháí-An N. Ton, Ph.D.

Serial No: 10/087,473

Docket: 090/003c

Title: DIRECT DIFFERENTIATION OF HUMAN  
PLURIPOTENT STEM CELLS AND  
CHARACTERIZATION OF  
DIFFERENTIATED CELLS**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION  
UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111**Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria VA 22313

Dear Sir,

This paper is responsive to the most recent Office Action on the merits, dated May 4, 2004 , for which a response is due August 4, 2004. Accompanying this response is a Request for a two month time extension. This sets the deadline to October 4, 2004. Accordingly, this paper is timely filed.

Applicant has given careful consideration to the analysis in the Office Action. Please enter the following amendments and remarks.